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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/845,994	04/30/2001	Hideyuki Agata	450100-03203	2930

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EXAMINER

CHOI, WOO H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2186

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/845,994

Applicant(s)

AGATA ET AL.

Examiner

Woo H. Choi

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/8/04
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 4 – 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redford *et al.* (US Patent No. 5,711,672, hereinafter “Redford”) in view of Mernyk (US Patent No. 6,496,206, “hereinafter” Mernyk).

- 3 With respect to claim 1 and 5 – 7, Redford discloses an information processing apparatus for reading data from a detachable predetermined recording medium (claim 1), comprising:

loading detection means for detecting the loading of a recording medium into said information processing apparatus (col. 21, lines 37 – 41), wherein said recording medium stores data including one or more images, and each of said one or more images has a type (col. 5, lines 12 – 28);

starting means for starting (col. 21, lines 42 – 44), in response to the loading of said recording medium detected by said loading detection means, a resident application program for processing said data stored on said recording medium, wherein said resident application program is already stored, in said information processing apparatus before said recording medium is loaded into said information processing apparatus (col. 5, lines 60 – 62);

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unloading detection means for detecting the unloading of said recording medium from said information processing apparatus (col. 21, lines 45 – 46); and

ending means for ending, in response to the unloading of said recording medium detected by said unloading detection means, said resident application program (col. 21, lines 51 – 52),

wherein said resident application program reads one or more of said one or more images from said recording medium (col. 11, lines 30 – 36).

However, Redford does not specifically disclose generation of thumbnail images for said one or more read images according to the type of said one or more read images so that said thumbnail image presents a small image representation specific to said one or more read images. On the other hand, Mernyk discloses a method of generating thumbnail images that are file specific (figure 3A, see also col. 4, lines 56 – 66).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Redford and Mernyk before him at the time the invention was made, to use the thumbnail image teachings of the information processing apparatus of Mernyk, in the information processing apparatus of Redford, in order to enable a user to quickly identify the basic contents of each file which are identified as filenames and/or icons (col. 2, lines 3 – 7).

4. With respect to claim 4, recording medium is a semiconductor memory (col. 5, lines 3 – 4).

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5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redford in view of Mernyk as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Sato (US Patent No. 6,067,398)

Redford and Mernyk disclose all of the limitations of the parent claim, claim 1, as discussed above. However, Redford and Mernyk do not specifically disclose detection means for detecting access to said recording medium and means for restricting the unloading of said recording medium in response to a detection result provided by said detection means. On the other hand, Sato discloses an information processing apparatus for where unloading of recording medium is restricted while the recording medium is being accessed (Sato, claim 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Redford, Mernyk and Sato before him at the time the invention was made, to use the removal prevention mechanism teachings of the information processing apparatus with detachable recording medium of Sato, in the information processing apparatus with detachable recording medium of Redford and Mernyk, in order to prevent data corruption while recording or erasing (Sato, col. 10, lines 30 – 37).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Woo H. Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4179. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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January 25, 2005


MATTHEW KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100